

# The Jewish *Gaily* *Forward*

"Transcend the Ordinary"

Tevet 5780 - Adar 5780 / January 2020 - February 2020

## It Is With Sadness We Announce...

By RABBI MYCHAL COPELAND

You have seen the email announcements when someone has died. What is shiva, and why does our entire community get a notice about it? In the Jewish tradition, when someone dies there is an acknowledgment that we pass through stages of mourning.

After a funeral, the mourner enters shiva, Hebrew for the "seven" days of this stage. During this time, the mourner shouldn't have to enter the everyday world yet (if they are able to step back from it). There are various customs that may be followed, but the most prominent in the Sha'ar Zahav community is the shiva minyan, a short evening service. When someone has experienced a death, there is a tendency to hide away from friends and community. Our tradition says simply, "No." Amidst our pain and sorrow, we are not permitted to silo ourselves.

When I first came to SZ, I was blown away by the number of people who show up for mourners. Shiva is a deep value in our community. And it's easy — all it takes is literally showing up (and don't worry if you don't know the prayers!). It's customary to bring food as a way of saying, "You are going to keep on living."

But if you can't bring something, the essential piece is showing up. Show up even if you didn't know the person who died — that's why the mourner will tell us a bit about them during the service. Show up even if you don't know the member.

Shiva is one of the wisest and most profound rituals in Jewish tradition. The genius of the shiva minyan ritual is that community stands by our side at the moment when we are grappling with the toughest questions about our existence. The shiva minyan makes it clear: what matters is that in the face of the unfathomable, we extend compassion to each other. Some congregants, observing shiva with family in other cities, choose to observe Shloshim, the end of the first thirty days of mourning with a gathering of friends in our community. Shiva or Shloshim gatherings are also particularly meaningful when the loss is of a non Jewish relative.

If you'd like to learn more about how we can show up for each other during times of illness or grief, look for my class this spring called "Hineni: I am Present for You."

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## Everyone Is Welcome

By NANCY LEVIN, President



When you think of Sha'ar Zahav, you think "synagogue," right? But Sha'ar Zahav is also a non-profit organization.

Like other non-profits, we have a board of directors ("Va'ad"), executive leadership, managers and staff, and member donors. Unlike KQED or SF MOMA, where the member's role

is to make an annual/monthly donation, Sha'ar Zahav membership also means being engaged in community.

Many of us work on projects together and with staff and clergy. We bond, we grow, we disagree, we learn, we teach, we pray. We even become board members. Also, of course, we live our Jewish values in community.

We have a long, proud tradition of lay leadership, with members owning and leading our organization. Our leadership is fluid - everyone is welcome to find a role by stepping forward, choosing an area of interest, and getting involved. A healthy congregation takes a community of individuals saying "Hineni" - I AM HERE. Our

active membership makes us a dynamic place, with pods of ideas, projects, and experimentation throughout. But, it may be hard to know the best person to talk to on any given topic.

**"Everyone is welcome to find a role by stepping forward."**

- Nancy Levin

It might take a few conversations to get the full picture. Communication may be uneven with so many people in the mix. And staff can feel like they have hundreds of bosses instead of one.

I suspect that if we were a more typical non-profit, communications would be more linear and decision-making more obvious. There might be fewer people to check in with, and less "process." But without the ability to be engaged, nurture a creative spark in ourselves or others, lift each other up to do what we never thought possible and become leaders, we lose the essence of what allows us to become a sacred community.

### Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco CA 94103

**VOICE** 415-861-6932  
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Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, California Power & Light, and the San Francisco Interfaith Council

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**Bob Shanholtz**

## NEW MEMBER PROFILES



I came to San Francisco about a week after graduating college, after spending a summer here as an intern. I absolutely fell in love with the look, feel and energy of the city, and couldn't wait to call it home. I started working as a software engineer on the privacy team at Facebook. Having grown up in an interfaith home, I didn't end up exploring my Jewish heritage until I was in college, where I dove in headfirst. I became a Birthright recruiter and joined a Jewish fraternity.

When I arrived in San Francisco, finding a new, strong Jewish community where I could feel welcome was a top priority for me. I was immediately taken by the warmth and friendliness of CSZ and knew very quickly that this was the place for me. When I'm not at work, I love to explore San Francisco's absolutely fantastic live music scene. I can't remember a week when I haven't gone to some kind of concert. I also enjoy training at my Mixed Martial Arts gym in the Mission, and I'm a complete film buff. I'm very excited to meet you all in the following weeks, and I can't wait to get to know the community on a more personal level.

## SHA'AR ZAHAV / NEW MEMBERSHIP

**August**

Carey Averbook  
Marjorie Sturm & Ernesto Diaz-Infante

**September**

Megan Cohen & Sean Howell  
Lisa Meier

(September cont.)

Karen Greene & Beck Epstein  
Daniel Stellini

**December**

Daniel Vanish  
Randall Heilbrunn

**November**

Cris Turienzo  
Margo Bender  
Crow Martin

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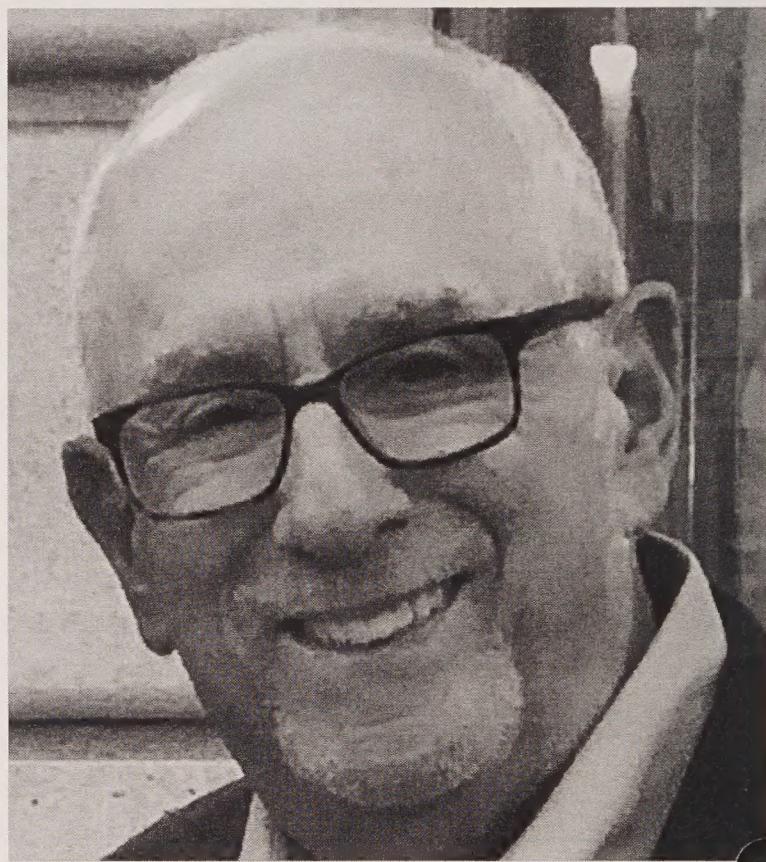
## My Legacy Gift

By ROBERT TAT

I've been asked to write about why I completed a Letter of Intent to leave a Legacy gift to Sha'ar Zahav. To understand why the synagogue is important to me, I have to go back to the very beginning.

I grew up with a strong sense of history. I'm a third-generation native San Franciscan with Jewish roots at Congregation Emanu-El (where I first met Allan Gold in our second-grade religious school class). My maternal great-grandfather came to California from Germany in the 1850s and developed a successful dry goods business in Monterey. So, for me Sha'ar Zahav is a continuation of what one might call that pioneering spirit.

In 1977 mainstream synagogues were not welcoming of LGBT folks. So, our three co-founders began holding services in the basement of Glide Church in the Tenderloin. I attended there during the first months of the synagogue's existence, and have been a member ever since. Seven years later the Danvers Street building (the first Home of Our Own), proudly displayed our logo - a Jewish star with a lambda superimposed. It was the first highly visible synagogue with a specific outreach to LGBT Jews. When I first set foot in Glide's basement room over 40 years ago I could never have dreamed of what Sha'ar Zahav would become. We were making history then, and continue



to do so today. Sha'ar Zahav has grown far beyond our original roots to embrace a wider diversity. We have played an important role in the larger Jewish community. Most importantly, we've helped bring about acceptance of LGBT people in mainstream Judaism. I'm proud that my legacy gift will help ensure that Sha'ar Zahav will continue into the future.

## SHA'AR ZAHAV / CONDOLENCES

### SEPTEMBER

**Florence Sterling Alpert,**  
mother of Dan Alpert

### OCTOBER

**Irene Tannenbaum,**  
mother of Martin Tannenbaum  
and mother-in-law of Alex Ingerson

**Barbara Ruth Staub Weiss Chaitin,**  
mother of Rabbi Eric Weiss

**Magda Schwartz,**  
aunt of Michael Tyler

**Helen Rubin Lund,**  
grandmother of Elliot Sprehn

**Phyllis Raskin Ellis,**  
mother of Brian Ellis

**Karen Augusta,**  
sister of Lauren Augusta

**Diane Swansen,**  
member



# Sha'ar Zahav

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Rabbi Mychal Copeland Cantor Sharon Bernstein

## Letter of Intent to Participate in *Our Legacy Community Program*

By making this commitment to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, I express my desire to share my blessings with others, aiding future generations and assuring the continuity of our congregation. This Letter of Intent indicates my desire to participate in Sha'ar Zahav's Our Legacy Community program. It is not legally binding.

I have made provision for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in my will and/or trust.

I intend to make provisions for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav through:

Bequest in my Will/Trust

Life Insurance Policy

Retirement Plan

Charitable Trust

Jewish Community Endowment Fund

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Gift of real estate, securities, or other property

The approximate value of my commitment is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ % of my estate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a copy of this letter to my attorney:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

To encourage others to participate in Sha'ar Zahav's *Our Legacy Community* program, I permit my name to be listed in CSZ and Jewish Community Endowment Fund printed materials related to the program.

I agree to participate in any oral history project regarding my legacy commitment.

**Join 70+ members by completing and mailing to SZ, attention: Irene Ogas**

## Security at Sha'ar Zahav

By IRENE OGUS, Chair - Security Task Force

Did you recently attend High Holy Day services at the Herbst? Have you attended a Saturday morning service or a Beit Sefer class for your child? If so, thank you for being willing to show your IDs and for helping us with our security trials.

Sha'ar Zahav, along with most Jewish houses of worship and institutions, is trying several new security protocols. Access to our building is more controlled and monitored these days.

Many thanks to the parents and the Education Committee for their diligent work in creating these protocols. These tests will help us formulate plans for Friday night services and other major events. Because Herbst Theatre is in a public building, we were limited in what we could do and our security programs were different there than for our own building.

“We are deeply committed to providing safety to all who worship with us, our staff, lay leaders and those with whom we share our building.”

- Irene Ogus

We counted these past High Holy Days as a security success - most notably because 80% of our worshippers pre-registered to attend! That's an impressive number - approximately 600 people.

A recent b'nai mitzvah at our building also gave us an opportunity to verify ID and check-in people who had accepted their invitations, all while continuing to be the warm and welcoming community we have always aspired to be. In both cases, attendees expressed their gratitude, understood the need, and said they felt safe and protected.

For the past year, our Security Task Force has been working to identify areas of vulnerability and opportunities for infrastructure improvements. Our success in obtaining a grant from the California Office of Emergency Services has allowed us to install improved exterior lighting and CCTV cameras as well as an intercom system.

In the coming months we will be replacing our front doors, and adding protective film and additional hardware to our windows. A new alarm system will be installed which includes devices for our greeters to use in the event of an emergency. Additional security training is in our plans, and we're exploring several options for controlling access to our building.

Security is a work in progress. The need is obvious; the change is challenging and sometimes painful. Please bear with us as we evolve; we are all in this together. We are deeply committed to providing safety to all who worship with us, our staff, lay leaders and those with whom we share our building.

As Rabbi Copeland said in her Rosh Hashana sermon, as a community we have an obligation to take care of each other, to overcome our fears and take comfort in our communal strength. We need to recruit more greeters and provide training for them in how to implement the security protocols.

Please let me know if you are interested ([irene.ogus@gmail.com](mailto:irene.ogus@gmail.com)).

**January**

1/3 Aaron Nacamulli  
 1/9 Jerome Davis  
 1/13 Phyllis Mintzer  
 1/17 Gerald (Jerry) Rosenstein  
 1/18 Ben Blachman  
 1/18 Keith Fenton  
 1/20 George Ash  
 1/27 Bill Ashley-Dobbin

**February**

2/1 Steven Richter  
 2/2 Stephen Walters  
 2/3 Cheryl Orvis  
 2/4 John Atteridge  
 2/6 Ronald Wilmot  
 2/10 Nathan Eli Weinstein  
 2/14 Barbara Rosenblum  
 2/16 Ephraim Troy  
 2/18 Ziggy Gimnicher  
 2/19 Allen Harris  
 2/23 Leland Vogel

## SHA'AR ZAHAV / SPONSORSHIPS

**August 9-10, 2019**

Flowers sponsored by Trudi White  
 in memory of my father, Ernest White  
 Oneg sponsored by Geri Kahn  
 in memory of my mother, Sandy Kahn

**August 16-17, 2019**

Oneg sponsored by Jonathan Funk and John Arnold  
 in celebration of their 35th anniversary

**August 23-24, 2019**

Flowers sponsored by Joan Goldman  
 in honor of Daniel Chesir  
 Oneg sponsored by Past Presidents of Sha'ar Zahav  
 in honor of Daniel Chesir and Rabbi Yoel Kahn

**Sept. 6-7, 2019**

Flowers by Shawn Matloob  
 in memory of my maternal grandparents,  
 Iran and Meir Cohanim  
 Oneg by Alice Harron  
 in memory of my mother,  
 Bernice Kahn Harron  
 Kiddush Luncheon by Murray Aaronson  
 in memory of Elliot Klein

**Sept. 13-14, 2019**

Flowers by Shawn Matloob  
 in memory of my mother,  
 Shahnaz Rahel Cohan Matloob  
 Oneg by Shawn Matloob  
 in memory of my mother,  
 Shahnaz Rahel Cohan Matloob

**Sept. 20-21, 2019**

Oneg by Marius Greenspan  
 in memory of my father,  
 Earl Greenspan

**Sept. 27-28, 2019**

Flowers by Joan Goldman  
 in memory of my parents,  
 Al and Ruth Goldman

**October 4, 2019**

Oneg by James Carlson  
 in memory of my grandfathers,  
 Arthur Carlson and Filippo Tuzzolino

**October 18, 2019**

Oneg by Ira Hirschfield  
 in memory of my mother, Lois Hirschfield

**November 1-2, 2019**

Flowers by Marianne Balin  
 in memory of my sister,  
 Susan Balin-Peterson

Oneg by Paul Cohen and Bob Guterman  
 in memory Fay Cohen,  
 and David Guterman, father of Bob

**November 8-9, 2019**

Flowers by Don Fischer  
 in celebration of Spencer's bar mitzvah  
 Oneg by Yvette Adida  
 in memory of my mother,  
 Marguerite Klein  
 Kiddush by Don Fischer  
 in celebration of Spencer's bar mitzvah

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### Jonathan Funk and John Arnold

in memory of Irene Tannenbaum

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**Please note: Advertising  
deadline for our next  
issue is January 15th!**

**SINAI**

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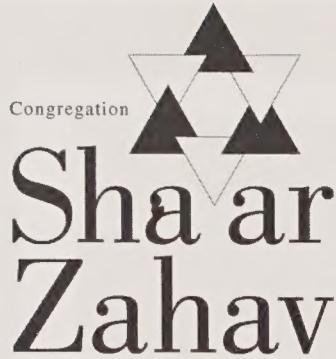
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Congregation

# Shaar Zahav

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**Rabbi** Mychal Copeland  
**Cantor** Sharon Bernstein

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## MUSIC IN THE MISHKAN 2020

**Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 4 pm:**

Piano Trios by Dvorak, Castelnuevo-Tedesco and Tchaikovsky

**Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 4 pm:**

String Trios by Klein, Krasa, Laszlo, Martinu and Dohnanyi

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 4 pm:**

Piano Trios by Schumann, Krein and Foote

## PURIM is coming!

**Celebrations for family and adults!**

Children's programming including mask  
making on Monday, March 9th

Adult costume contest along  
with a fun-filled Megillah reading to follow